Shadows Fall "Thoughts Without Words"

By Michael Mueller

There are two general roads to success in the music industry: You either shoot straight to the top as if you had rocket thrusters in your Doc Martens, or you make a gradual ascent—a slow burn. The former gets all the press and hype, but the price of that attention is often an equally fast crash. The latter may take a little longer to recoup your advance, but it typically comes with longevity that is so rare in this era of "sign 'em, and if they don't sell double platinum, drop 'em." Metal rockers Shadows Fall—pardon the pun—"fall" into the latter category, slowly garnering an underground following, critical press, and, recently announced, a slot on Ozzfest 2003.

Back in November 2002, we labeled Jonathan Donais and Matthew Bachand as two of "The New Guitar Heroes," and their first single, "Thoughts Without Words," bears that out. Take a look.

MAIN RIFF

To jam along with Lonais and Bachand, you'll first need to tune your axe to drop C (C–G–C–F–A–D, low to high). Once you're there, crank up the gain and get ready to rock. The main riff in this tune is fairly straightforward; you just need to decide whether you feel more comfortable sliding the power chord with your middle finger barring the top two notes, or with one finger per string (lowest to highest: index, ring, pinky). When you get to the second measure of the verse, fret the D note on the 5th string with your index finger, hammering onto the E♭ and subsequently pulling off with your middle finger. Using this combination of fingers, you'll be in position to perform the slide from the 5th to the 3rd fret when the lick is expanded in measure 4. In measure 7, however, play the same D note with your ring finger, thus setting up the B♭/D chord on the "and" of beat 3.

THE SOLOS

The solos, as well as the riffs encountered earlier, are generally culled from D minor scales. The first guitar solo, for the most part, is based in and around the 10th-position D minor pentatonic scale extended up to high C, with the low D and F notes pulled from 5th position [**Fig. 1**]. Note the liberal dose of A♭ introduced in measure 14 to provide a touch o' blues in this otherwise heavy rocker.

The second guitar solo kicks off in grand fashion with wildly vibratoed, wah-wahed, full-step bends followed by some taps and pulls—old-school style. To "pull" this off, keep holding your pick between your index and thumb and use your middle finger to perform all the tapped notes, changing your fret-hand finger as needed. Ten or 15 years ago, this tapping technique was a must-have in every rock guitarist's bag o' tricks. These days, however, it's no longer part of the vernacular (though we hope to change that!). In case you're not familiar, try the exercises in **Fig. 2** for a crash course. In each, tap with your middle finger while holding the pick.

Fig. 1

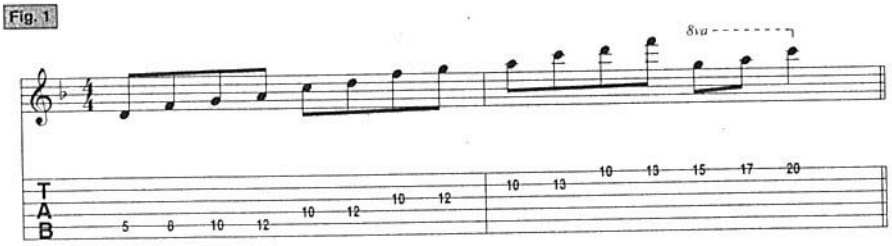
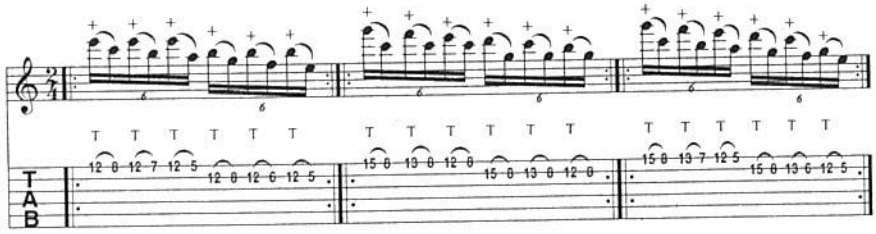


Fig. 2



TONE ZONE

GUITARS: Solidbody electrics
PICKUP/POSITION: Humbucker/Bridge
GAIN: 8
EQ: Bass/Mid/Treble: 7/4/5

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THOUGHTS WITHOUT WORDS

As Recorded by Shadows Fall

(From the Century Media Recording THE ART OF BALANCE)

Transcribed by Adam Perlmutter

Written by Brian Fair, Matthew Bachand, Paul Romanko, Jonathan Donais, and David Germain

Drop C tuning:
(low to high) C-G-C-F-A-D

Intro

Fast Rock ♩ = 176

Gtr. 1 & 2 (dist.)

B5 B♭5 Gsus2

Gtr. 2 tacet

Gtr. 1 D6

f P.M.

Verse

1. Hav - ing a - ware - ness, of self,
2. You must quench the yearn - ing de - sire.

but no true sense
and false

Gtrs. 1 & 2 **Rhy. Fig. 1**

you find your - self en - slaved
On - ly ba - lance will

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2
divisi

*P.H.

*Gtr. 1 only

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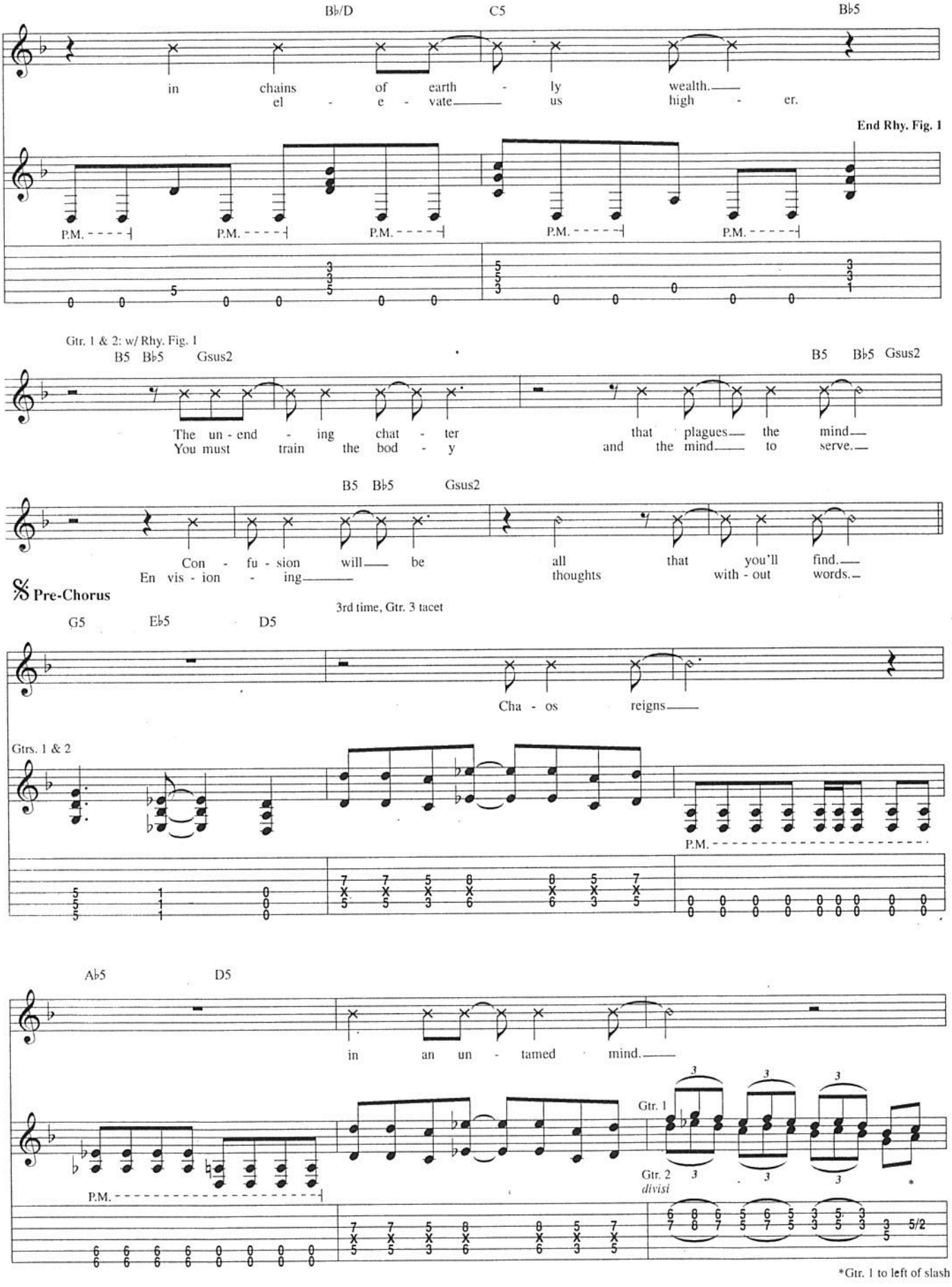
Thoughts Without Words

B♭/D
C5
B♭5
in chains of earth - ly wealth.
el - e - vate us high - er.
End Rhy. Fig. 1
P.M.
Gtr. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1
B5 B♭5 Gsus2
The un - end - ing chat - ter that plagues the mind.
You must train the bod - y and the mind to serve.
Con - fu - sion will be all that you'll find.
En vis - ion - ing thoughts with - out words.
Pre-Chorus
3rd time, Gtr. 3 tacet
G5
E♭5
D5
Cha - os reigns
Gtrs. 1 & 2
A♭5
in an un - tamed mind.
Gtr. 1
Gtr. 2
divisi
*Gtr. 1 to left of slash

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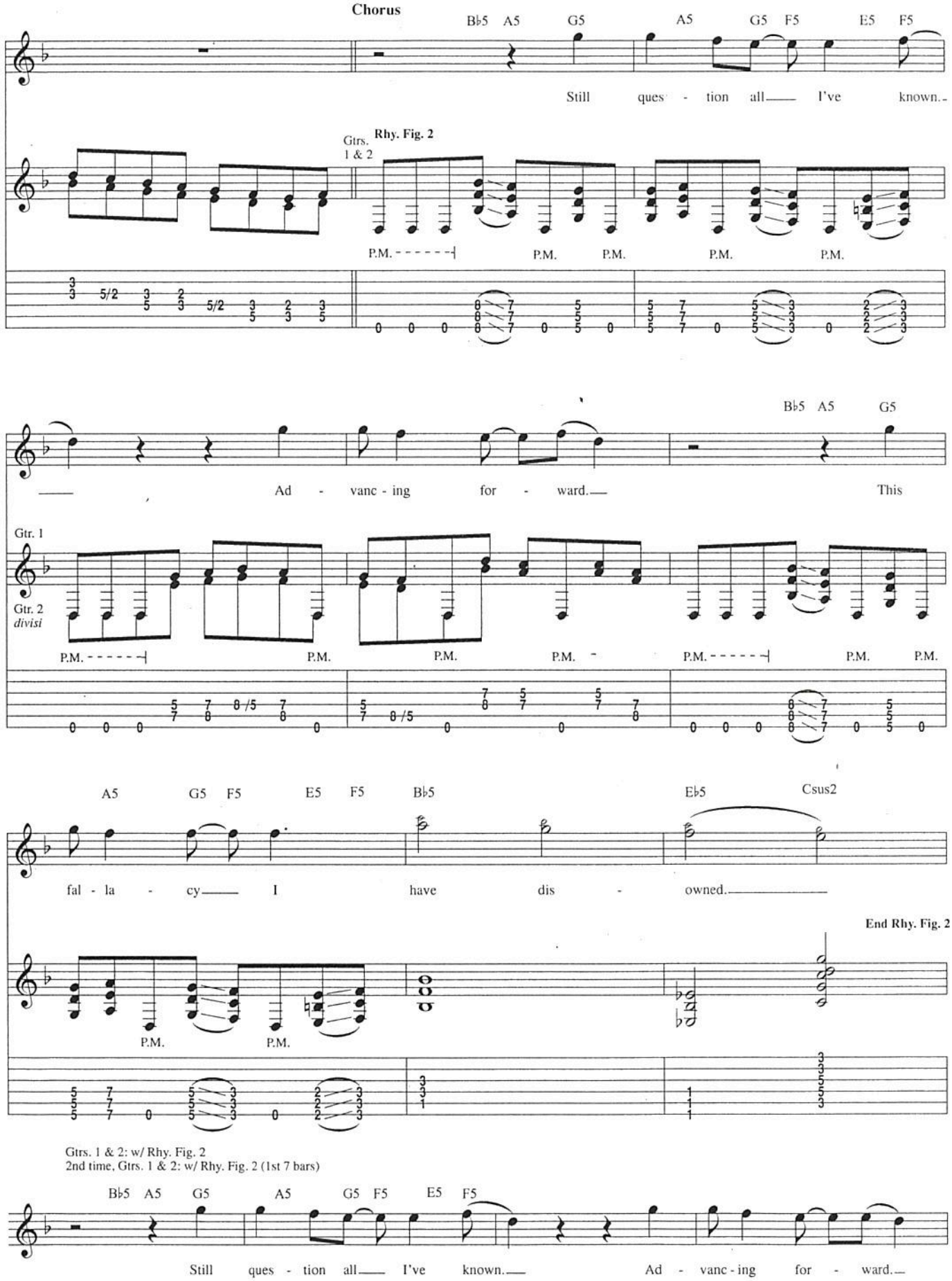
Thoughts Without Words

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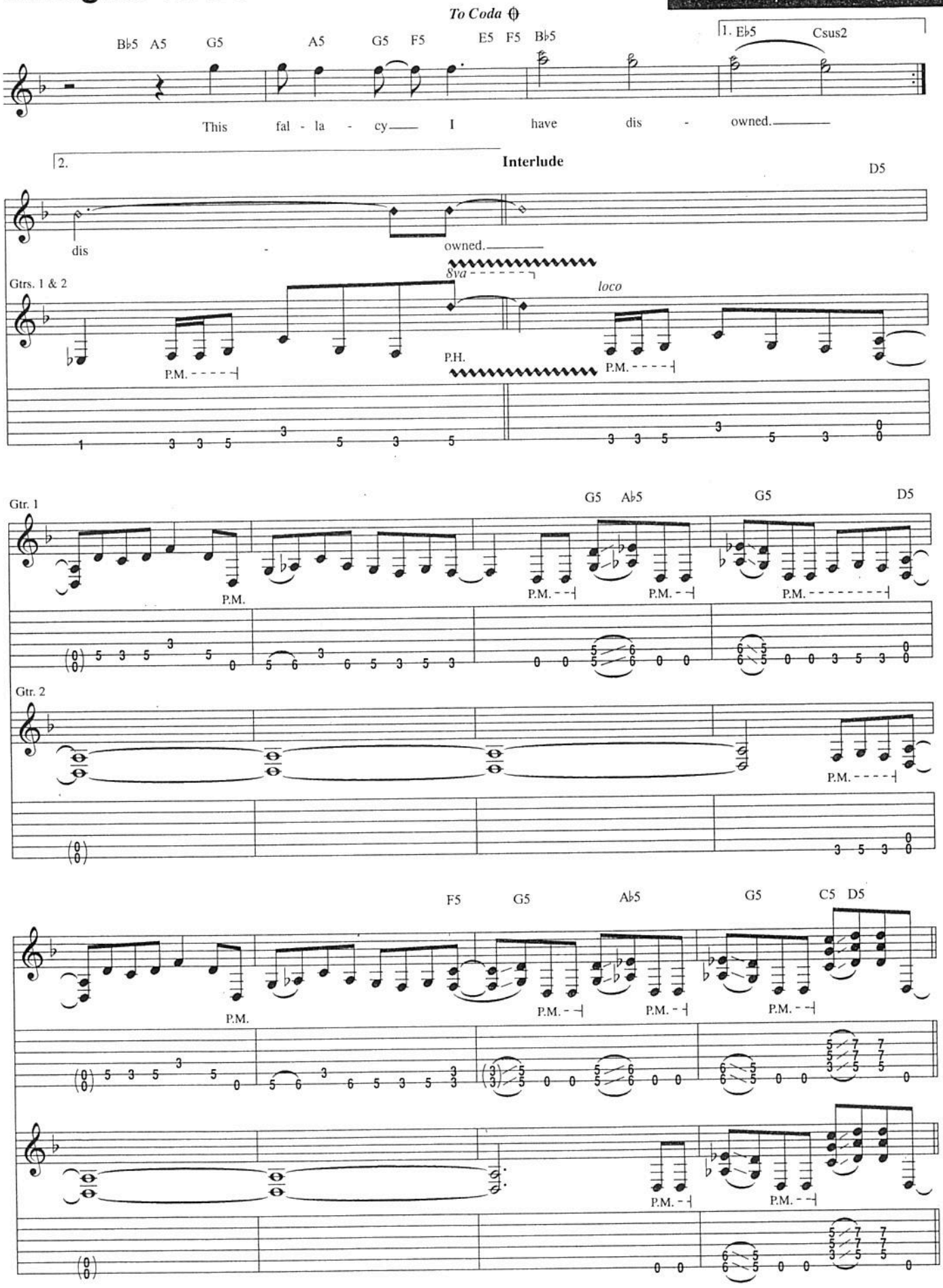
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Thoughts Without Words

Bridge

F5 G5 A♭5 G5 D5

En - caged in a world that fear cre - ates.

Gtrs. 1 & 2

P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.

2nd time, Gtr. 3: w/ Fill 1

F5 G5 A♭5 G5 C5 D5

You must re - lease your - self and li - ber - ate.

P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.

Guitar Solo I

Gtr. 3

D5 F5

Gtrs. 1 & 2

Rhy. Fig. 3

P.M.

Fill 1

Gtr. 3 (dist.)

f

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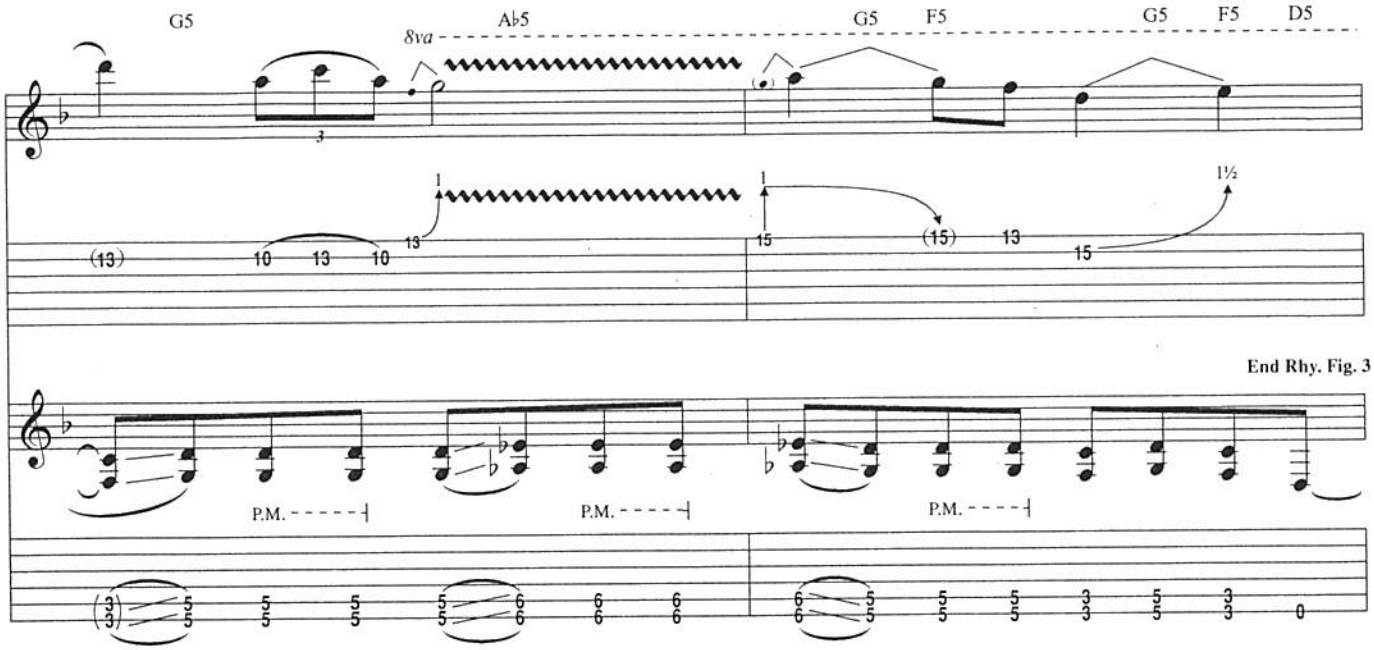
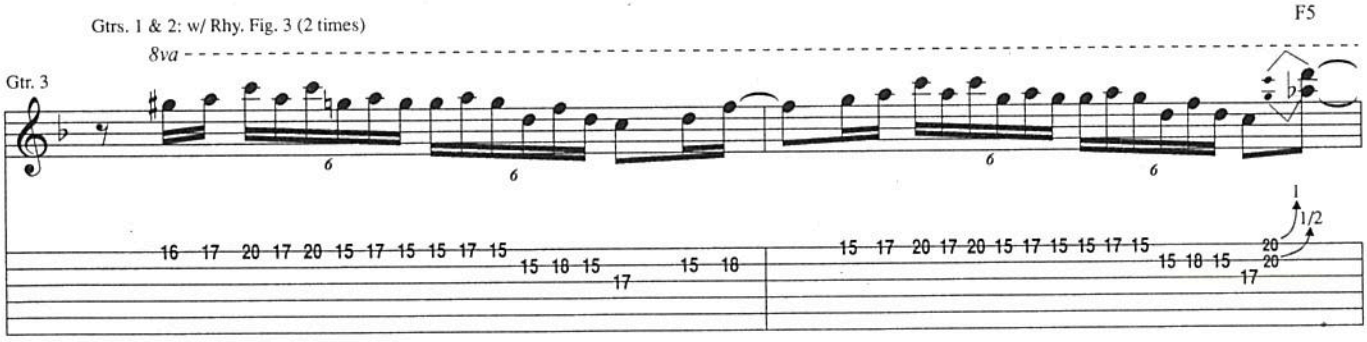
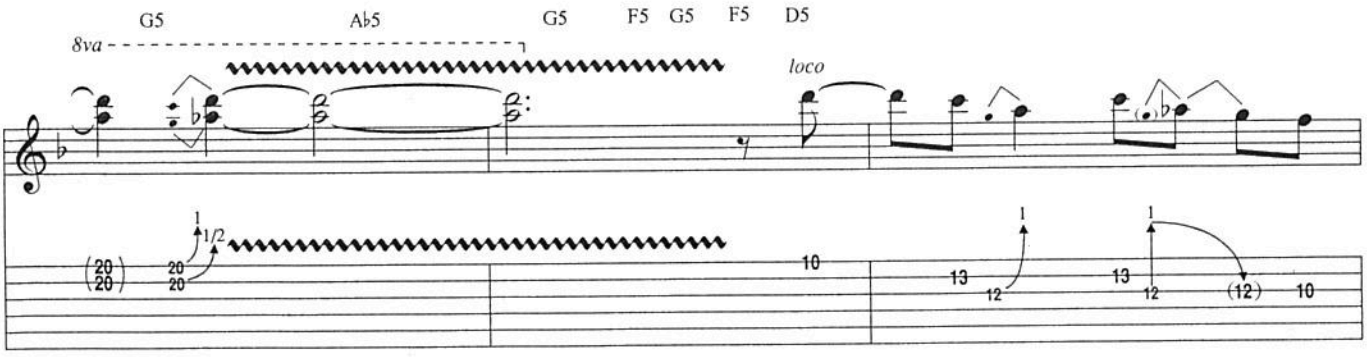
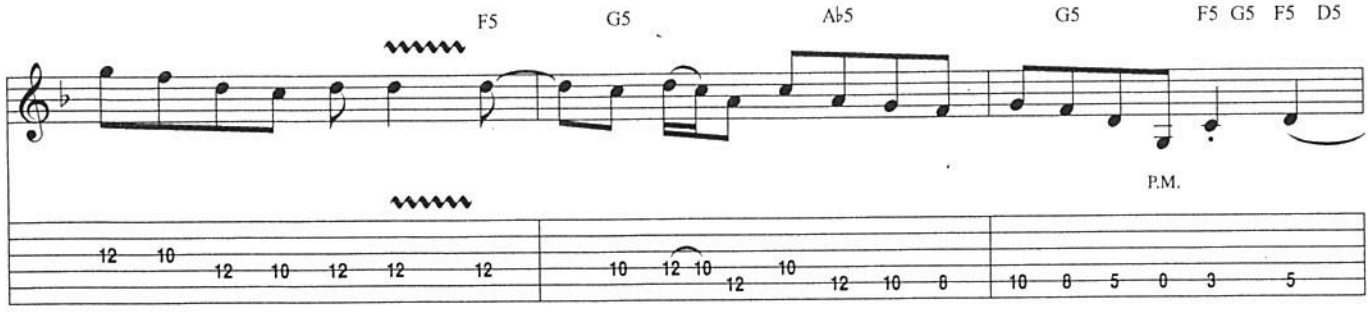
Thoughts Without Words









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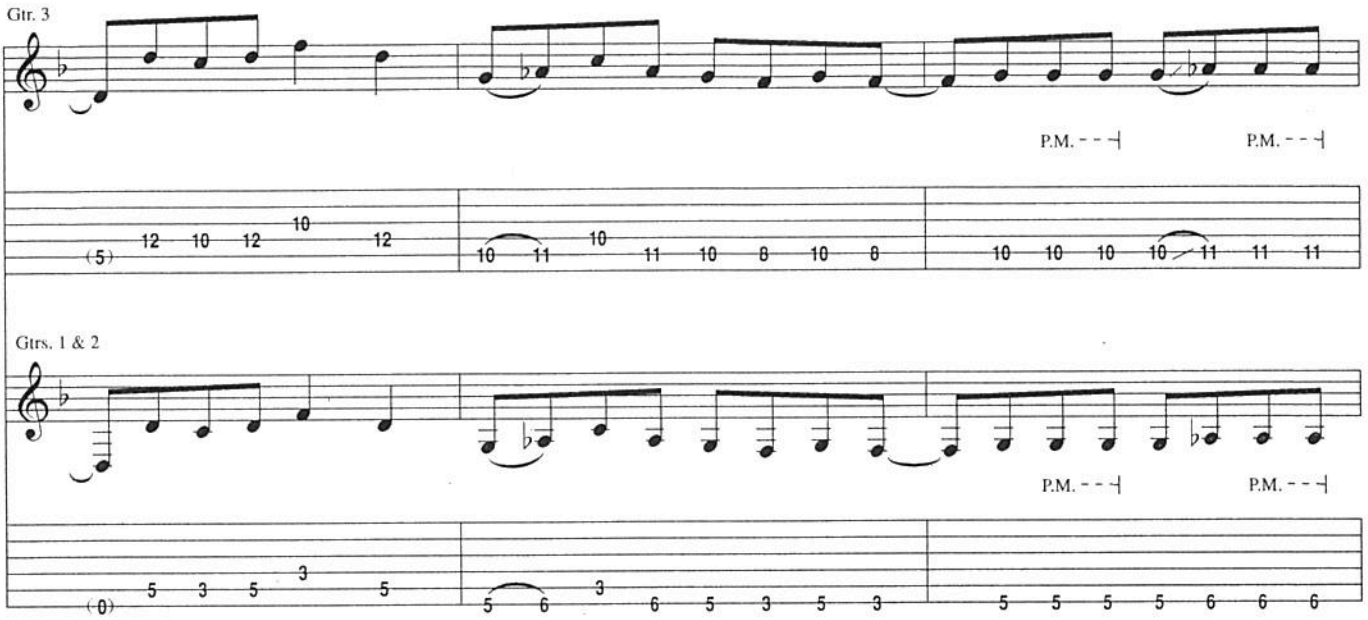
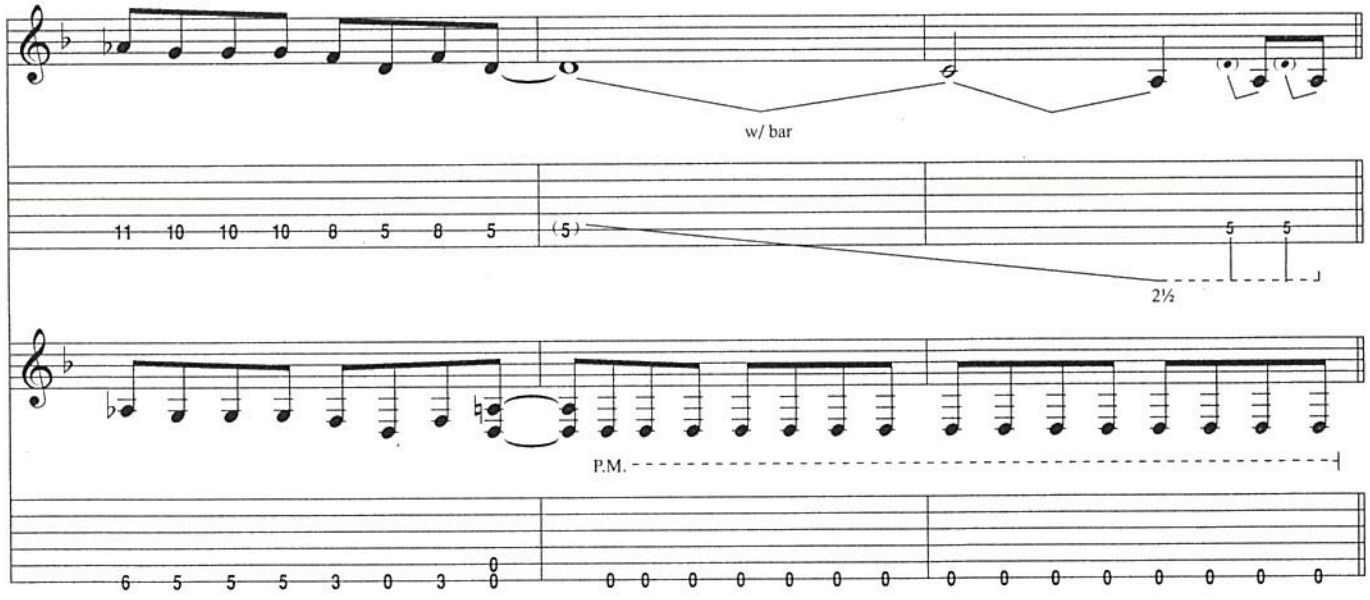
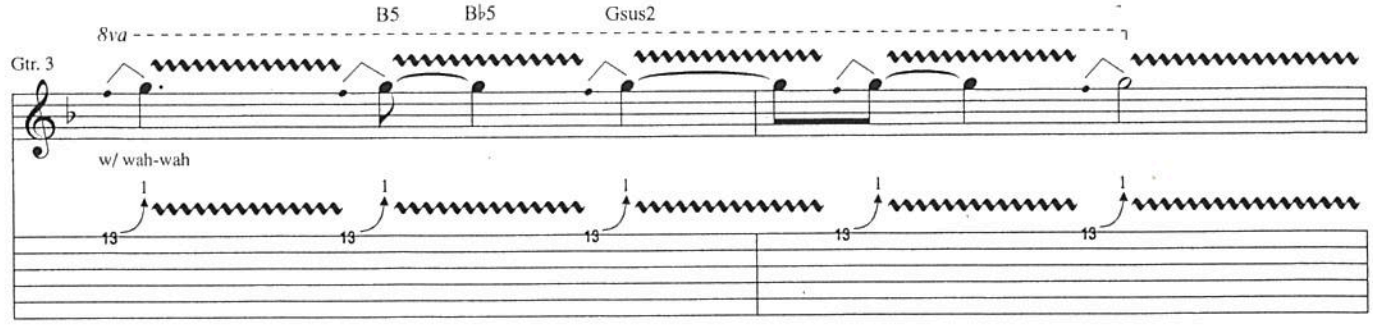



Guitar Solo II

Gtrs. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (1st 2 meas.,7 times)



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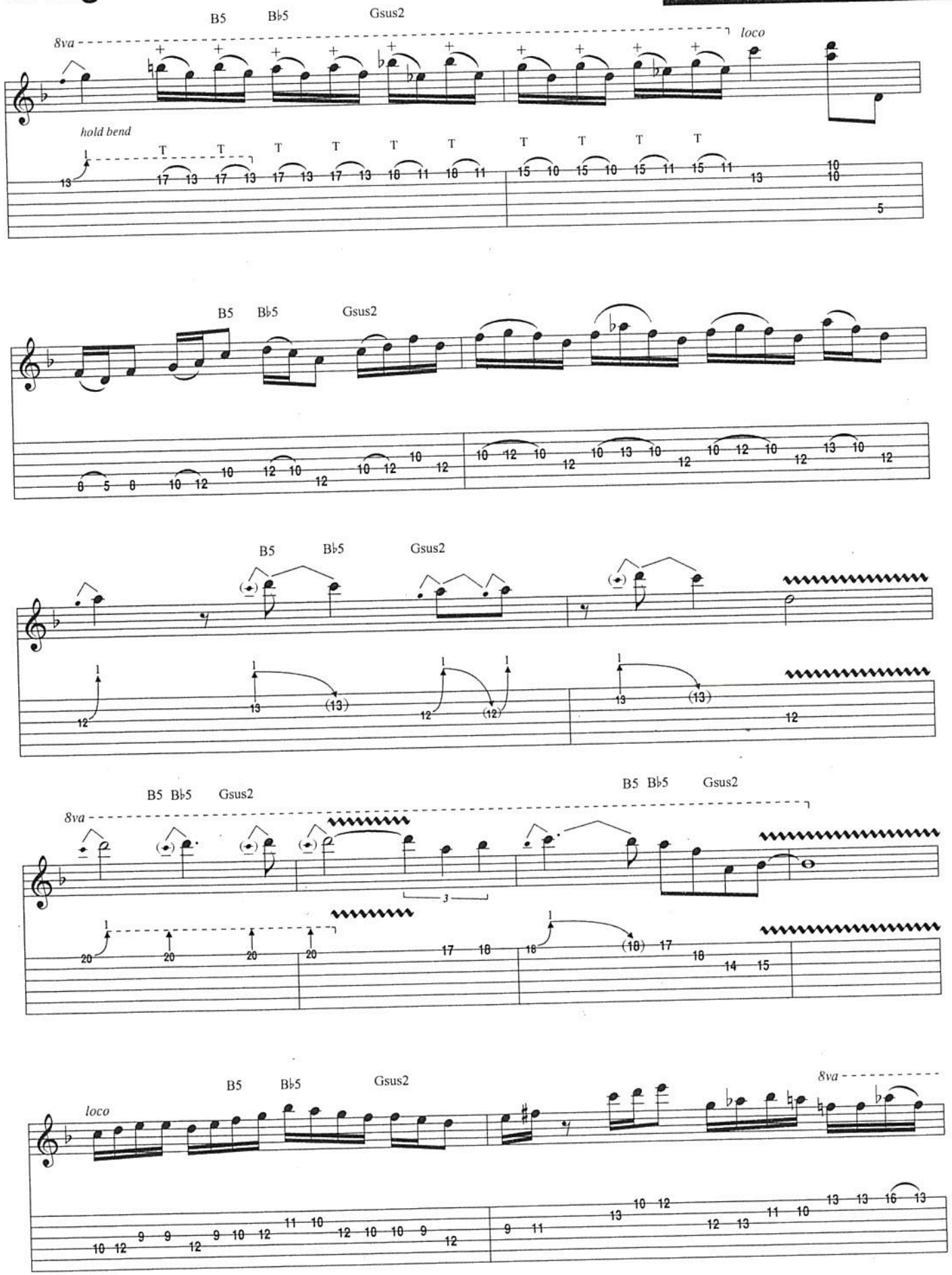
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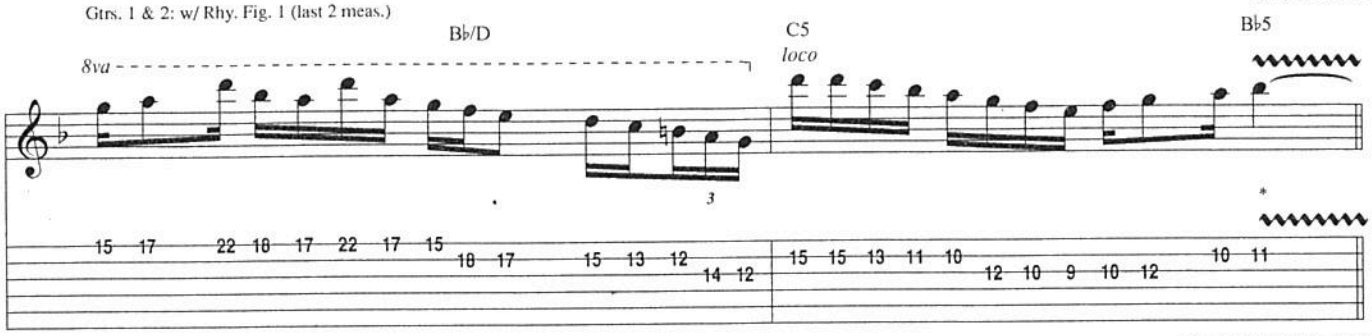
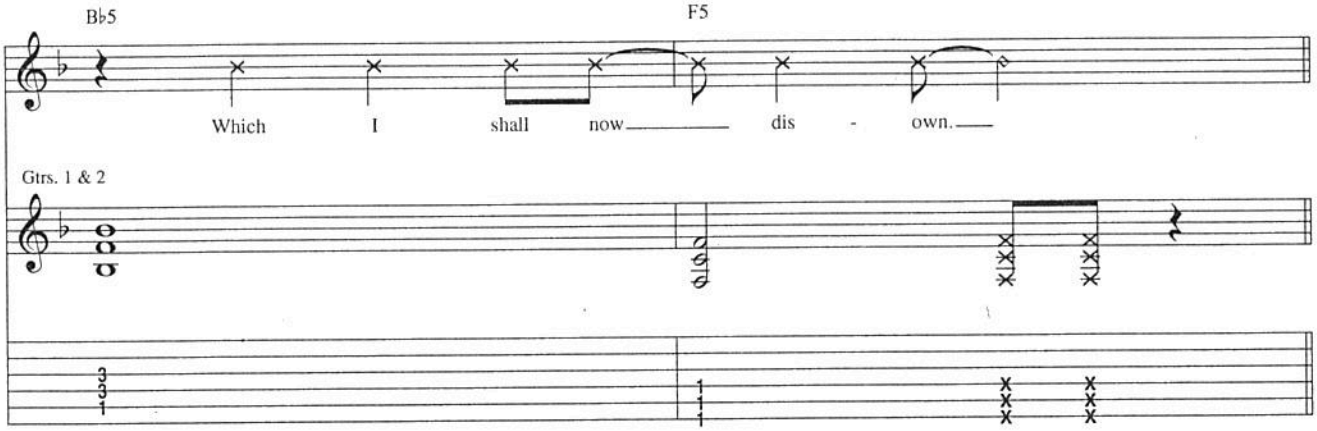
Thoughts Without Words

D.S. al Coda

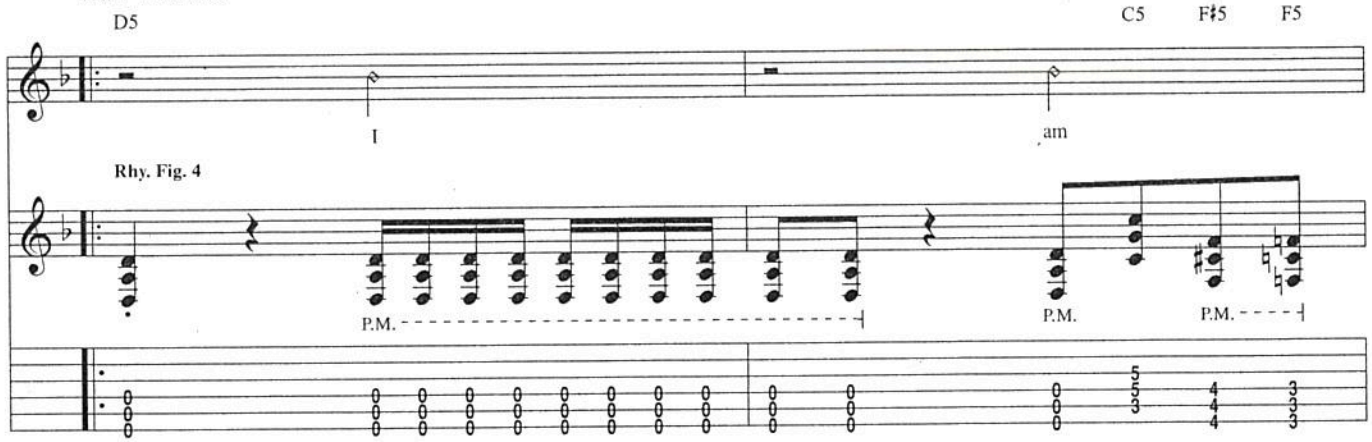
Gtrs. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (last 2 meas.)

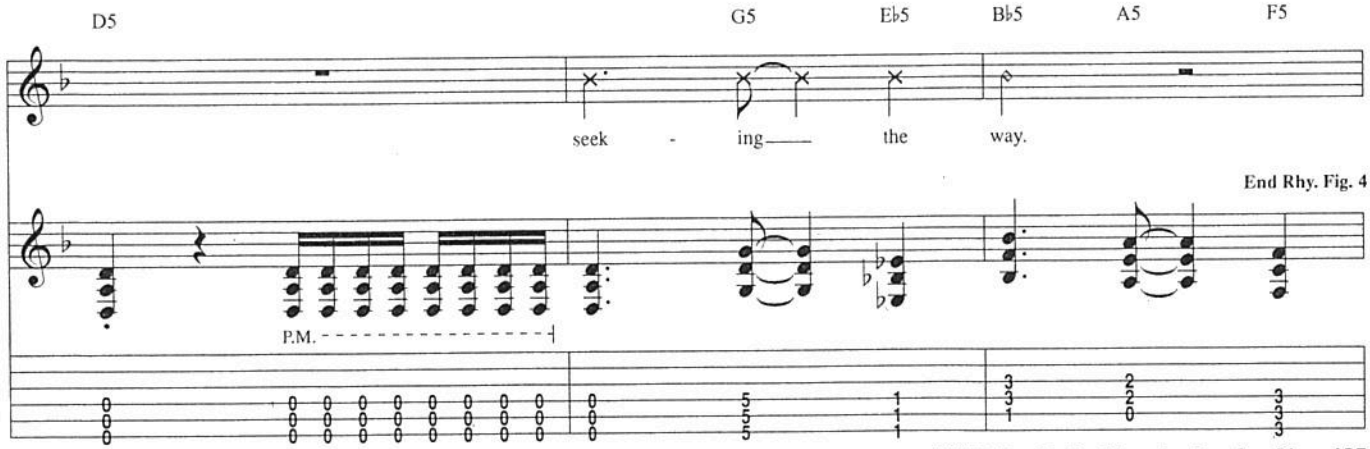


*let note ring for 1 meas.

Coda

Outro

Half-Time Feel





Thoughts Without Words

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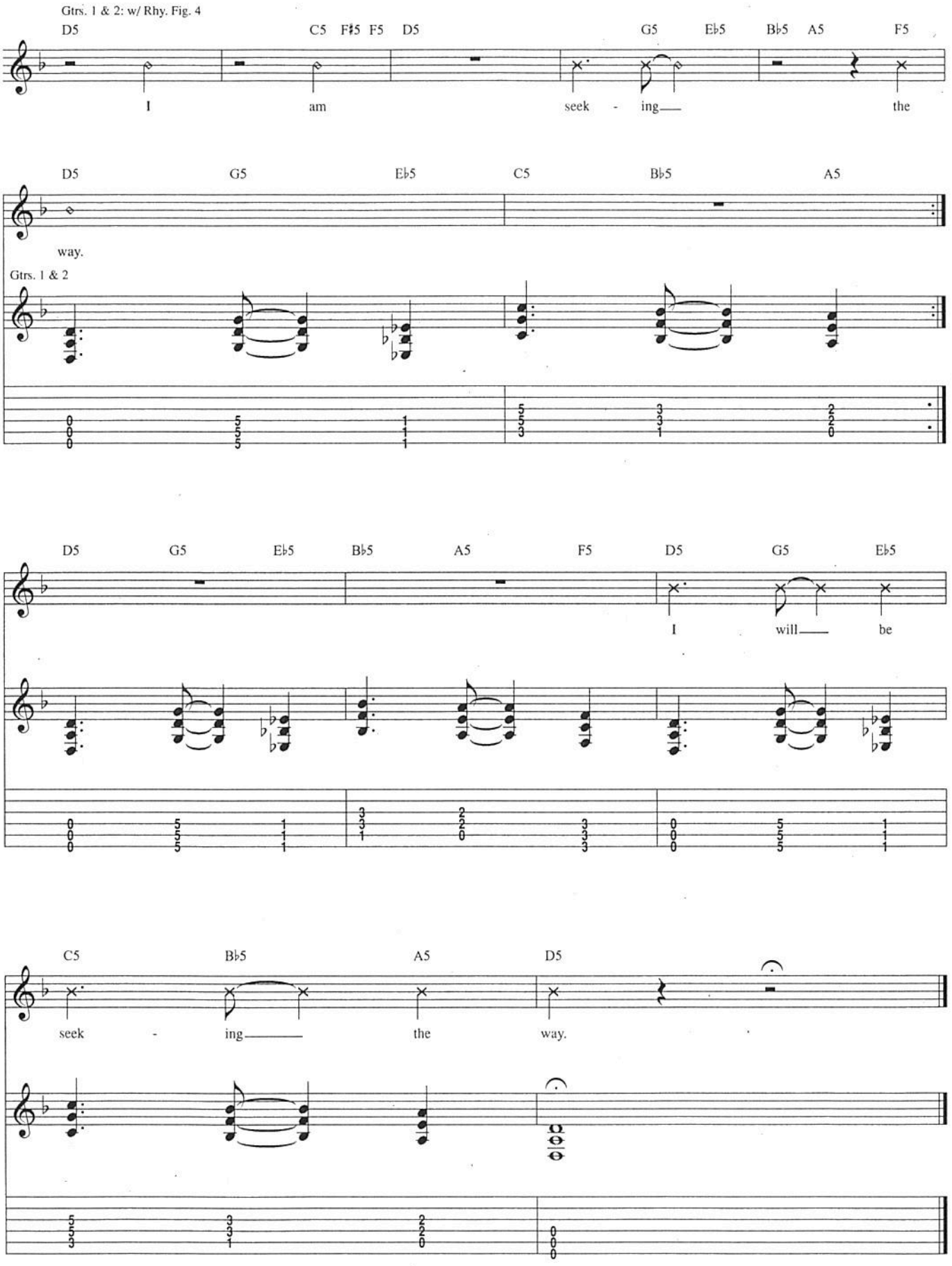
Gtrs. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 4
D5 C5 F♯5 F5 D5 G5 E♭5 B♭5 A5 F5
I am seek - ing— the
D5 G5 E♭5 C5 B♭5 A5
way.
Gtrs. 1 & 2
D5 G5 E♭5 B♭5 A5 F5 D5 G5 E♭5
I will— be
C5 B♭5 A5 D5
seek - ing— the way.